

MTM/VF EIS

Community Narrative: Carcassone, Kentucky

Interviewer: O.K., the first question, could you just tell me a little bit about yourself and your family.?

Resident: O.K. What would you like to know? Husband?

Interviewer: A little bit about family history, where you work or where your husband works and also . . .

Resident: My husband works for a strip job and he is a dozer operator.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: And, my son, I have two sons. One is 25 and one is 20 and both my sons had to leave here to find work because they don't want to work in the mines or on a strip job, so they left here, so now I have to drive about 3 hours to see my grandchildren. They live in Georgetown. They moved there, you know, near Lexington, where there are better jobs. And, I don't work because where we live, basically the roads and stuff, and the community where we are in, it really it doesn't pay me to work. I wouldn't make enough money to drive that far. You know, we tried that and by the times the taxes come out and all that, it doesn't pay for me to work.

Interviewer: Right, so you are in a very much a rural, Clarkizone is a very rural community . . . can I say that?

Resident: Very so, very much so, very much so. If it comes and snows, everybody here has 4-wheel drive. If you don't have 4-wheel drive, most of the winter, you are sitting. You cannot get out. And, even with 4-wheel drive, a lot of times it's hard.

Interviewer: What are your connections to the area, Resident? You or your family? How did you come to live in Clarkizone?

Resident: I was born . . . my husband was born, in fact he was born on a bridge about a mile or two down the road. On the way to the hospital. But, I was born in Louisville. My family, my grandparents were here and my mother, my mother and father are divorced, so that is how I ended up to be here. My husband has been born and raised here. My children, you know, they went to one school the whole time here. The school bus comes at 6:45 in the morning and gets here after 4:00 in the afternoon, that's how long they are gone to school and that's starting in kindergarten.

Interviewer: Yea, that sounds like my days of going to school. I cam from a very rural area. We are actually here in Pennsylvania and that reminds me of my childhood days.

Resident: But I have seen the kids sometimes here, the roads were so bad, you know that they stopped at the road and they would let the kids off the school bus and let them walk across, and then drive the school bus across and then pick them up on the other side.

Interviewer: What . . . how many people do you say would live currently in Clarkizone? I know it's a rural area but . . .

Resident: Clarkizone is just a small area here. What it is basically it starts up . . . when people around here, when they think about it, it starts up in Elk Creek, this little part starts, it's Elk Creek, that's called Elk Creek, and then you come on up the mountain and this part here is Clarkizone and then probably not a half a mile out through here is known as Jent Mountain and I guess they called it that because there's a lot of Jents that lived there at one time, but everybody just knows that as Jent Mountain, but up there starts the strip jobs, I mean that's where you have people actually living just about in the yard, you know, they're right there, the strip jobs are right there, I mean you look and the rock trucks and everything are going. I wouldn't live there for . . . you know, you couldn't . . . no, I wouldn't want to live there. It's bad enough where I live I felt, you know, you feel the shots and hear 'em and if I have damage from them, I can just imagine what those people out there.

Interviewer: O.K. How many people live in Clark . . . I mean considering that geographic area you just defined, how many people would you say live in the community of Clarkizone?

Resident: Well, I'm gonna put Clarkizone and Jent Mountain and I would say approximately, you would be lucky 100 families, about 100 families, maybe.

Interviewer: 100 families, o.k. When did the . . . how far away is that actual is Jent Mountain where the strip operations is?

Resident: It might be a mile out there.

Interviewer: A mile from where you live currently?

Resident: Uh huh, it may be a mile.

Interviewer: Um, the next questions are focusing on quality of life issues. The first question, did you observe or experience changes in your quality of life related to community resources within the time periods that I specified from let's say 1980 to the present time?

Resident: Community Resources?

Interviewer: Let's give you an example of the quality of your schools, local services, maybe from your local government, the natural environment, the resources, those types of quality of life issues, could you . . .

Resident: Like the government things to here, say as in our courthouse system and all that, is that included in that?

Interviewer: Right, I would say quality of life in terms of related to the Mountain Top Mining Operation. Did you see any change, any relationship there . . .

Resident: I can tell you that the situation here, especially with the mining industry, just about everybody here has a job connected to the mining industry in one way or another.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: And if the mines . . . everybody is dependant on that basically, more or less, and that's our problem in this community is we do not have the officials in place that they are too worried about making money theirself. Now right now, we have had a very good, you know, township, Carol Smith is trying to get us out of this. And it's just so ingrained in, you know, people, the magistrates and all this stuff, that they're beholdng to the mining company, you know, they, where if you do this for me, you know, I will do this for you, you know, that kind of thing.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: You have a whole lot of that right there. Where if you do this for me, you know, I'll give so-and-so a job in your family, you know, he can come out here and work on the strip job, we'll give him a job, you know, or we'll put him to work in the mines. And you have a whole lot of that. For us to ever make anything, bring factories in here, other things in here, you're gonna have to get away from that, you know, you're gonna have to quit being so, we need to quit being so dependent on the mining industry, because you are liable to work six weeks, I mean six months out of a year, and make oodles of money, but then you gotta look, you are laid off for six months, 18 months, you know, let alone, you know, then you've got the health quality issues too, that's like one thing with my husband, right now. You've got the dirt when they're working there, they're working in, you know, the dirt. Now, they are getting a lot better about that stuff right there, making them keep the road watered and . . . you know, the equipment with air conditioning in it, like in 19 . . . o.k. you're talking about starting in 1980?

Interviewer: As a rough time period, correct.

Resident: O.K., well back then, when my husband worked in the dozer, it was, I mean, it was mainly open cab dozers, no cab on them, no nothing on them, no air conditioning, no nothing, and I mean it was dust, they come home dirty, just, you know, nasty, and you know they are breathing that. Now, that is getting a whole lot better because, you know, they are in the enclosed cabs, they have, you know, the air conditioning, they have all that there, they are getting better about that, but they still, they need to get a whole lot better about it, they need to go to all the mines and do that and not just pick out certain ones. I think you have some of the mines, you know, the people that are in the mines that know people that are like, you know, over that, like, what's the people that they have come out there, I can't think of their name, my minds been blank, that comes and takes that, inspectors. O.K., where you have a whole lot of the people that, uh, the big wigs at the mines that knows these inspectors, and they turn their heads to a lot of things.

Interviewer: O.K., so in terms of . . . how about community resources, you talked about personal impacts there, were there anything in terms of impacts or changes to the natural environment?

Resident: Oh, yes. It doesn't even look like the same place where I live. I lived here and I hadn't been a mile up the road, I mean, I can go for a month or two and I don't go a mile up the road here, because I don't go out that way, you know, I go out the other way, and I can go out that way and I mean, I'm amazed, I'm amazed, I mean it doesn't even look like the same place, every time I go out through it's changed.

Interviewer: Right

Resident: There's a mountain gone here, a mountain gone there, you know, some of where you . . . where I live used to be trees. Where my home 's at right now, used to be . . . it was like a forest and, I mean, you know, now I've got my home here, where this was, this area where I live, right now, on what I live on, was somewhere that they strip mined back in the late 70's, early 80's. Because when we moved here, when we moved in our place, right here on our property, what it was was we bought it off of a woman, an older woman and there was a strip job that the mining company had moved her, had bought her this little piece of land here, well, they moved her here, they stripped a piece of land here and they moved her from her home out here on Jent Mountain, down to here, bought her a trailer, and gave her this land in order so that they could go up there and strip her property up there.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: O.K., then when they got through with her property, she got to go back up there, you know, and do whatever, but by then, it's you know, just flat, rock, dirt, which is when we moved here, that's what this was.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: I mean it was, it was awful. I'm still going out here right now, I can't plant anything hardly for the rocks and stuff that's here that you have to dig up and I mean we had a dozer come in here. We had bit coal trucks full of dirt come in here and you know, dump the dirt and then got a dozer in here and done all that, and leveled it out and done all that stuff and then waited years before we moved, you know, our double wide, our modular home here where we've got it at now.

Interviewer: Right. Now do you have, you said about planting things. Do you mean like grass for your yard? Do you have a garden there too, Resident?

Resident: I don't have a garden of like food, but we have peach trees, we have apple trees, what we are trying to get 'em going, you know, we've lived here . . . we moved here, we bought the land off of that woman I was telling you about in '81, in May of '81, o.k. and we have lived here ever since, but what it is we lived in a single wide trailer and there was like the road, the county road that went through and we owned a big field, like, where they had stripped is what it was, across from it,

and we had that dirt brought in and the dozer and all that and we lived in that trailer for 13 years.
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Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: Before we came over here, you see, and put something here, so all that time, see it had that time to sit, but when you go out there to plant something, you have to take, well, you can see in my yard, several places where there are big rocks that was put here. . .

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: You know, and there's just no way to get those up. My husband said, you know, he talked about going and you know kinda like getting dynamite and dynamiting them up . . . but on the other side it makes you worry if it's even worse, and you can't do that so you just have to live with them and there's two or three rocks. One out there like in my lower yard, I'm thinking about planting creeping rocks you know going down it.

Interviewer: Right, exactly, make a rock garden out of it, so to speak.

Resident: That's what I am attempting to do right here, I have planted a lot of stuff out here that, you know, kinda incorporating that rock into it.

Interviewer: Right, exactly, try to work with what you have there.

Resident: Yes. But when you go like to plant a tree, I can't get out here and plant . . . a lot of times I can't even plant flowers because the rock is in there and you have to cut . . . my husband has to take a crow bar a lot of times, you know one of those big bars, and go down in there and have to get that rock, you know, out of there.

Interviewer: Dig the rock out before you can actually put some good soil back in.

Resident: Yea, yea, yea we have a big pile here of saw dust, rotten saw dust, that we went and got from the old saw mill that used to be back years and years and years ago, and we go and get that saw dust and just keep . . . I mean there's probably two truck loads of saw dust that we keep out there at all times, for that right there.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting. You had mentioned, a little in your conversation just now about your water supply. Could you tell me a little bit . . . uh, has that, uh, have you seen any change in your water supply since the mining operations?

Resident: When we lived here, the water, when we moved in in '81, the water that they had there, you know, the water system that that woman had, the well was 300 and some feet deep, 365 or something like that they had for that woman . . .

Interviewer: Right

Resident: O.K., there was never, I mean, there's nothing like going and getting in the shower

and getting your hair all soaped up and the water would quit.

Interviewer: Oh Boy . . . I know what you mean.

Resident: So, we went through that for, I don't know how long, and come to find out, there was a mine from over on Carbon Glow, at this mine that was mined underneath of us.

Interviewer: Interesting.

Resident: And, that's where our water had been going to, and we had some people that were friends of ours that worked for that mine and they told us, you know, we're right directly underneath of you all and we are getting the water. But, of course, you know, they would tell us that that was their job, you know, and you couldn't say nothing, you know, they wouldn't have never stood up in court or anything.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: O.K., but finally I called the coal company, it was Golden Oak and I called them and they told me that man laughed at me, he laughed at me. He said we're nowhere you all, you know, you don't have nothing, you know, we don't have nothing to go with that.

Interviewer: Now what was the name of the coal company again?

Resident: Golden Oak Mining Company

Interviewer: Golden Oak Mining Company. O.K.

Resident: Uh huh, exactly, and I'm trying to think of the man's name that I talked to because this would have been in like '81 and '82, '83, and I'm thinking, I'm wanting to think his name was Koontz, but it may not have been that.

Interviewer: And that's o.k. We don't need that detailed information. I am trying to clarify the name of the mining company so we're . . .

Resident: That's the mining company very definitely the mining company. O.K. But anyway, let me tell you a story . . . this is a good one. O.K., when we went to move to get out double wide to put over here, we found out that this land, even though it had been deeded to us and was recorded in the courthouse, the man that had give the woman the land, you know, the older woman the land, he had give her the deed for it and it was recorded at the courthouse, but come to find out he had already sold out . . .

Interviewer: How interesting . . . interesting

Resident: beforehand . . . and so it didn't really belong to us so here we are holding the bag, we had already signed the papers on this trailer and you know when they do the title search, then they found out that it belongs to the same coal company, Golden Oak Mining Company . . .

Interviewer: Oh, interesting . . .

Resident: So I went to the mining company and explained it and I mean, it was a long, drawn out process. Now, first of all, but getting back to the well, we had to get another well drilled and what we did was, 'cause it was, I mean, we were totally out of water, totally . . .

Interviewer: And this is on your current property?

Resident: This was on the property, yes, on the property, but this was when we were in the first trailer. O.K., we finally had to have another well drilled and what we did was came over here in this field and we found out where a long time ago my grandparents had people that lived here, my family, we found out where they used to have the little house at and where their dug well was at, and what it is they had a mill down here in the creek beside of it, down here, we have a creek here, they used to have a mill here that they ground everybody's meal, o.k., but the creek isn't nowhere near now, it doesn't have enough water in it, you couldn't, you know, back then they said it was a real big, you know, roaring creek.

Interviewer: Yea, enough to power a mill.

Resident: Enough to power a mill, right here where I am at. You know, to grind corn. They ground everybody's corn here.

Interviewer: Into corn meal.

Resident: Uh huh. O.K., and what we did was we found out that the approximate location of where that dug well was at and that is where we had them drill. O.K. They hit water at like 60 feet.

Interviewer: That's pretty good.

Resident: They hit water, o.k., and then they went down 60 more feet, so my well was 120 feet deep and I'm gonna tell you when I first got that well drilled, I tried my dead level best to run that well dry. I would do everything I could and I could not run that well dry.

Interviewer: You had a good water supply there.

Resident: I had a good water supply and it was real good water. O.K., we done it across the road here because we knew that eventually we were gonna put our house here. So then when we moved our double wide in here, we hadn't been here . . . we moved in here on December 13, 1993 and I mean, it wasn't the next year, we hadn't lived here no time till they put saw dust and all the block work, you know, busted all to pieces, you could, I mean we went out there one day, I was sitting here by myself one day about 7:00 in the morning and I kept hearing this thump, thump, I tell you it sounded exactly like when you put tennis shoes in a dryer.

Interviewer: Oh yes, ha, ha, ha, ha.

Resident: But it only happened every so often and when I would hear it I would get up to try to tell where it was coming from and by the time I would . . . , it would be, you know, it would go away.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: Well, I told my husband I kept hearing it and finally I went outside, was it something outside, and I had two or three dogs at the time and I said it must be the dogs under here, I don't know how they got under there, but it sounded like a dog hitting its head . . .

Interviewer: Underneath the house?

Resident: Yea, so I went out there and all the dogs were all sitting, they wouldn't come near the house, they were sitting here looking at the house . . .

Interviewer: Oh boy, ha, ha, ha.

Resident: So I thought there's some kind of an animal underneath of my house and they won't go near it, they're scared of it. So when my husband come home from work that night, we were sitting there eating supper and I was telling him about it, I said you're gonna have to go under there and see what kind of animal is under there, I said it's . . . and about that time, he heard that noise and he said I'm gonna go see what's under there . . . and he went out, he got up from the supper table, him eating eating supper, ran out and went around the side of the house and when he got around the side of the house, there he said every bit of our block work was busted all to pieces and you could stick your hand through there, your arm, all the way through the block work.

Interviewer: So it actually made enough gap in the block work.

Resident: Oh, it was, it was busted all to pieces and we went around the back side of our trailer and the hole and it's now five block high, it is oh oh oh block work in the back it's five blocks, you know, five concrete blocks high.

Interviewer: These are cinder blocks.

Resident: Yea, and it had actually moved that whole wall out.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting.

Resident: The whole wall out. And what it was was right where our well was at, it sat right up against our house, so there's a crack that went all the way down through our yard and it went all the way under our trailer. Come to find out, that noise that we were hearing? Was our trailer coming off the, you know how when you've got a trailer, you know, you put the block up and . .

Interviewer: You have to have some foundation there for it.

Resident: Yea, you know, you've got, well I tell you what we did, when we poured the concrete for this, poured 44 pads, my trailer is 28 x 70 and we poured 44 pads of concrete. They're 10' x 10' x 10' concrete. 10' deep, 10' wide, you know the pads. . .

Interviewer: Exactly.

Resident: And that's what they, you know, blocked the trailer up, you know how they blocked it up underneath of there. Well, it was coming off of them.

Interviewer: For goodness sakes.

Resident: That's what I was hearing. So I had to call them and they sent people out here and they went under my trailer, had to jack it up and put that back under there and I mean, I've just, I've had an awful mess with them. They've had to come out here and drill me a well. The well that they drilled didn't last a week or two, and they come, maybe a month, and then they had to come back here, the water quit. Now mind you when the water quits, it's usually always on a weekend, so you have to go all weekend with no water. . .

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: until you can get hold of them again and until they can get out here and do something about it. So sometimes there was a week there one time that I was without water.

Interviewer: Didn't have any water to go on?

Resident: No, none, none whatsoever. So anyway the well, when they drilled it, it went dry about I guess three weeks a month later, so they sent the truck back out here and they drilled it deeper. They went down deeper. O.K. Then it didn't last much longer after that. So then they come out here and built me a building, a pump house, they had put concrete floor, it has a 500 gallon water tank in it, is has the potassium filter, 'cause the water had got bad, this water when they made the big crack in my yard, done that to my trailer, you could run a glass of water and it looked just like a glass of milk.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting. Now you say "they" did it. Who are "they"?

Resident: Golden Oak Mining Company.

Interviewer: Oh, so you are talking about the mining company actually came out and did the improvements to your well.

Resident: Yes, but I'll tell you something about that. This is an observation on my part. I'm gonna tell you this. O.K., when we got this trailer I told you that we found out that the field wasn't ours, I had to go to Golden Oak, well they ended up giving it to us, deeding it to us, but I had to agree to sign a paper for them to put a pond within so many feet of us. I don't know if it was 75, 300, what it is, I've got the paper still in there, but that's the only that they would agree to give it to us, which was still very nice. They still could have kept from doing that, but they said they didn't really have any need for it and I'm gonna tell you the reason why, the reason that I think is behind this. I think that the man that they sent out there was nothing but a big . . . and I think that he thought he would get somewhere with me and was trying to score brownie points.

Interviewer: Oh, ha, ha, ha, O.K.

Resident: Now, I know that because I had to , do you see what I am getting into there, and I think a whole lot of the reason why I was so lucky in getting a whole lot of this to get done around here was because he that he thought that he could get somewhere, the mine company officials were more worried about how many women they could go. I actually asked them did they have somebody hired to go around and try to get these women, you know, 'cause their husbands are mainly at work, so they're dealing with the women.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: And I said what did you all do, you know, in other words, the pretty women, the ones that are nice to you, that's the ones you know, did they hire you to go around and try to make the women, you know, happy, so that that's much less you all can get by with, you figure if you know, you snooker the women, you've got it made?

Interviewer: They tried to appease you.

Resident: Yes, are you following me?

Interviewer: I know what you are saying.

Resident: Yes, yes, I mean I actually asked him if that's the reason why they had him hired.

Interviewer: Interesting. Now, you had talked about those types of impacts. Was there any impacts on the population or the local demographics from uh, during this time period, 1980, did you notice any population shifts, did people leave the area, or did people come into the area?

Resident: They packed up and people leave. When the kids grow up, I told you I have two sons, both of them left, out of here. I mean there was no jobs to be found at the time there was no jobs to be found because if the mining industry is in a slump, then, they don't hire anybody. They don't hire anybody period and I'll tell you another thing. Even with the mining companies, you've

got to understand these people, these young kids when they are coming out of high school, college, the strip jobs, the mine companies, the mines, they want them to have experience.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: Well how can they have experience if they've never, you know, you have to you have to work somehow and you have to, you know, learn some time, but they would always want them, you, you had to have experience. Of, if you were lucky enough to have somebody with a lot of pull working there, you know, that could get you a job. That's the only way you could get a job.

Interviewer: So, local hiring practices, it was very, it was difficult in your, could you say it was difficult trying to get a job with the local mining company?

Resident: Oh, very difficult.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: Very difficult. In fact, you had to have family working for them already, or, you know, work experience, or you know, something like that.

Interviewer: Would you say a lot of people in your community worked for the mining company, or do most people work elsewhere.

Resident: No, most people are, just about everybody that I know, almost everybody that I know, in one situation or another, their job is related to mining, you know, they may not be directly in a mine, but there is someone, it has got something to do with the mines, or impact in it in some way. Some form or fashion.

Interviewer: And so you are saying like your two sons, for example, and are you noticing this in other families that have children of high school or college age, are they moving out of the area, or . . .

Resident: They are moving out of here.

Interviewer: And they are looking for other employment opportunities outside the area?

Resident: Yes.

Interviewer: O.K., um just an overall question, what is it that you like about Clarkizone, what do you like most about Clarkizone?

Resident: Well, I like being able to . . . I don't have, I'm not . . . like being in a city. I don't have neighbors that I'm sitting here looking when I look out my window, I'm looking at the wall of their house. I'm not looking at somebody else's yard. I have, you know, an area here that I can get out and I can take a walk through my yard and it's like walking, it's nice and quiet, I can walk

down the road without, you know, meeting 1,000 cars. I can keep my doors unlocked. You know, I don't have to have my doors locked all the time. Uh, neighbors, if I need something, right now, if I need something, all I have to do is go down there and pull up in my neighbors house, and you know, if I have something go, my husband's on a fishing trip right now, and if something goes wrong here, all I know, you know, I just have to go down the road, and I'm sure some of them will come up here and help me if something tears up here or something like that. You don't find that in the city. And, I like being able to go out here and sit on my porch and look at the birds.

Interviewer: Has any of this what you just described, has any of that changed over uh, since 1980, the time that you have moved in, and has any of that, what you enjoy about Clarkizone, changed in any way?

Resident: You want to know about how many times that I have told the coal company what I thought about them because I feel like that they are inviting on my territory.

Interviewer: And you would say in terms of your privacy, can you say that your privacy . . .

Resident: I feel like that they're tearing up with I have . . . I don't want them to tear up what I have here because this is mine, I paid for it, it's mine and I don't want it destroyed.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: Even though my husband is a dozer operator, and he, I'm sorry, but these mining companies, there has to be a better way to do this. You know, don't go in here and mess up people like me that money couldn't buy me and they couldn't come in here . . . my piece of mind here and me sitting out on my porch, watching my birds, you know, they aren't gonna buy this place from me. They might go somewhere down the road here to some of the neighbors and buy their place or something and go strip it . . .

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: If you keep your dust and your smoke and your thoughts and the rest of it to you, but of course it don't work that way. It's a constant fight with them.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: It is a constant fight. And, by the way, what I was gonna tell you about the water situation earlier in the field over here, we found out they own this field and when we found that out, we also found out that they had made a mistake on the deed, their deed, their fault, their, their, they had put when we lived on that . . . the one part that we did own the acre of land that we did own, remember when I told you when our well went out and I called them and they said that they weren't anywhere around us?

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: They had used my one acre of land in my name and had used it to mine . . . they mined right directly. They had made a mistake on there and included my one acre of land in one of their permits and had been mining on it.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting.

Resident: And mining under it. Yea, I've got the papers showing it.

Interviewer: Interesting.

Resident: And I mean, it's even papers that come from them where they diagramed, I can take you back through the deeds from what the 1970s when they deeded it to her and then where it went to us, you know where it went from Billy Gilton and at the time that was his, I don't know what they called the mining company, but it was Billy Gilton was the one that was, I guess they called him Gilton or something.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: Uh, but I've got the deeds here at my house, showing where, you know, it's went from one to the other to the other, and I've got the papers showing where Golden Oak Mining Company made a mistake on that. I've even got papers showing where they have admitted to making a mistake on it and adding it into their back up, so I don't know what that would have, probably I could have got them in a whole lot of trouble.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: But see, I didn't know it until years later.

Interviewer: Right. Exactly. Are there, based upon those, what you just told me, Resident, let me ask you this question. Have there been any benefits from the presence of surface mining in Carcassone?

Resident: Well, if it wasn't for the mine, then what would our people be doing for money? Because we don't have nothing else here.

Interviewer: So they basically provide the, that's your basic, uh, employment.

Resident: Uh, the mine company is what gives me my bread and butter. That's what gave me the house that I'm living in.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: What pays for it. My husband works, you know, that's what he does, he operates a dozer. If that company wasn't there, then I wouldn't have. . . you know, then, then, they're paying for everything I have here.

Interviewer: O.K. So the benefit, you're telling me the benefit then is the employment

opportunity that your husband has.

Resident: That, that's basically, that's one of the things, and I can tell you another thing, they do do a whole lot like as far as helping put ballparks in here, things like the road over here, side of the mountain, I can give you a good example here. Probably back about 5 years ago, 7 years ago, there was a piece of our road fell down. 7 years ago the parents were going to get together and were not gonna let the school bus, our kids ride the school bus because it was so bad. School was about to start. Now, there was, I can tell you this, it was not far from an old mine that used to be there, in fact people go there right now and get water out of it. It's got water that runs all the time and they fixed a hose up out of it and I don't know. Tons and tons of family around here, they come and get their water from there. It must be good. People come from Blackie, from down at Red Star, from everywhere to get water from that mine.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: O.K., it was that close to that mine, but there was also a gas company that had a line through there too, so we don't know exactly the reason why the road did that. But anyway, Golden Oak Mining Company came in here and fixed the road. They, I think, furnished the equipment, or furnished half of it and the County furnished the other half and they fixed that road. It supposedly it was supposed to be like for community relations, but I found out later on that here they were, it was on TV. and all this stuff, and here they were taking the credit for it and oh, you know, wanting everybody to think, oh, they're so great for doing this, for helping this community out, and doing this for them, well, come to find out, I found out that they were getting, they had been fined for something and were gonna have to pay a fine and they didn't have to pay the fine if they helped, you know, in other words a community service project.

Interviewer: Right, in lieu of having to pay . . .

Resident: Lieu of having to pay their fine.

Interviewer: O.K.

Resident: So, you know, things like that would come out to the good hit home.

Interviewer: Right, exactly. What, in terms of the mining company, its relationship with the community, what public information was available to you or your neighbors regarding the introduction of the presence of surface mining. Do they have any information that they give to you on their activities?

Resident: Now, not until, probably, uh, I would say a couple of years ago, I got a letter in the mail, it was certified mail, they sent me a letter and said that they were going to be mining within ½ mile of my house and it, you know, it told about the blast signals and, you know, all that. Other than that, no, you don't hear anything.

Interviewer: So, beyond that initial contact, you can answer yes or no, if you wish, did the surface mining company continue any contact with you or your neighbors beyond that initial contact?

Resident: No.

Interviewer: The next couple of questions, I know this is, if you left the community, would you ever, are you planning to stay in Carcassone for a long period of time?

Resident: Yes, I would love to. This is my home, I have my home, I have my house here, I have, you know, the trees that I have planted and watch grow, but, if my husband gets without work, if the mining company, then, we would have to leave, we would have to go where the jobs was at.

Interviewer: Right, because there's no other employment opportunities there to . . .

Resident: Other employment opportunities.

Interviewer: O.K., so hat would be a factor for you to leave if the mining company left and your husband was without a job, you would basically have to leave because of that fact of unemployment.

Resident: In fact, I can tell you right now, my husband, as of right now is laid off.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting.

Resident: Yes, he just got laid off, lets see Saturday was his last day of work, but it's only supposed to be for this week, because, uh, what it is is the coal will stop, see you go through this right here too, and now this is the first time my husband has worked for the company for 9 years and he has never been laid off before and they have had their hours cut down here for the last month, month and one-half, they have cut the hours down and now they have laid them off this week because the tipple is shut down because where didn't have a bad winter, we didn't use coal, as much coal, so they have coal stockpiled up. They have too much coal stockpiled up, so they cut their hours down. See, this is the mining industry, it will be o.k., but yet look at it back three months ago, two or three months ago, they were wanting them to work 7 days a week, they were hiring people, they were begging people, they were talking about bringing people in the from the Ukrane to work because we didn't have enough workers here, they couldn't train them fast enough, you know, and they were just, coal was selling for, you know, \$50 and \$60 a ton and now here it is, and I've been in around the coal business long enough to know, when I see that, I know that there is a big slump fixing to follow it.

Interviewer: Oh interesting.

Resident: When you see something like that going on, a big coal burn, then you can bet that not far along following it is gonna be, it's gonna, the bucket's gonna fall, the bottoms gonna fall out from under it. This is exactly three months ago, they were begging for workers, couldn't find enough workers, and now here you are laid off.

Interviewer: Laying off workers, interesting. Well, you have given us a lot of good information. I will give you this opportunity. That's all the questions that I have, if you have anything else you want to add, feel free to, but that's all the questions we have. I had given you information up front

about if you needed to contact Bill Hoffman, or if you wanted to log on to the web site to check out the project itself and where it is at in terms of the report . . .

Resident: I have it written down here.

Interviewer: Exactly, so and you have my name and information if you want to get back in touch with me, but that's all the questions I have for you.

Resident: O.K., well if you all need anything else, you can contact me.

Interviewer: Well, that's uh, that is super . . .